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Letter dated 26 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to the Security Council an official communiqué dated 24 May 2016 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of my country, setting out the Government's official position on the political situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ignace **Gata Mavita**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 26 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Official communiqué from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has been following with great concern statements made by the representatives of certain partners relating to the political situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Ministry notes with regret that these statements concern domestic political issues and are increasingly accompanied by threats of sanctions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes in this regard to make the following clarification:

(a) The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a State governed by the rule of law. The Government is therefore under an obligation to enforce the country's laws and regulations, in order to ensure law and order, tranquillity and security for all, essential conditions for the enjoyment of other fundamental human rights. It cannot allow abuses of rights that are harmful to Congolese society.

(b) In view of the equality of all citizens before the law, and to avoid anarchy and chaos, the Government ensures that efforts to combat impunity are the rule, in all circumstances, regardless of the criminal acts involved or the positions held by their perpetrators. This is a matter of respect for the Constitution and for ethical standards in public affairs. Construing it as an attempt to narrow the political space would be a mistake.

(c) The Government will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that all citizens enjoy their guaranteed fundamental rights, but in strict compliance with the laws and regulations. In this connection, it should be noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of the most advanced countries in Africa in the area of respect for and promotion of public freedoms, including freedom of the press, freedom of expression and other civil and political rights, both collective and individual.

(d) The use by certain partners of language larded with threats is not only morally indefensible, in view of its arbitrary nature and selective application in the region, but also — and most especially — contrary to international law, which prohibits both interference in the internal affairs of other States and the use or threat of use of force, in any form. Such conduct undermines the sovereignty of the States concerned, in the present instance the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is also counterproductive, in light of the spirit of constructive dialogue that partners who are respectful of the values and principles that govern international relations, as mandated by the Charter of the United Nations, should maintain.

(e) As for the election process, the delay is primarily due to two major causes: the lack of reliable and inclusive electoral lists, and the lack of consensus on the election timetable. In the first case, a solution is in sight with the launching of the pilot test and the forthcoming acquisition of the necessary material. In the latter case, the purpose of the dialogue initiated by the Head of State is to reach a

consensus on a comprehensive timetable for the election, as the opposition has rejected all the timetables issued previously by the Independent National Electoral Commission. Rather than engaging in invective and accusations of ulterior motives, loyal partners should be expected candidly and effectively to support the Commission and the national political dialogue.

Done at Kinshasa, on 24 May 2016

(*Signed*) Raymond **Tshibanda N'tungamulongo**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation